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25944 7590 10/07/2009 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
DICKERSON, CHAD S				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 9/18/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In Applicant's remarks, the Applicant asserted that the applied references did not perform the features of (1) *"wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality of jobs should be deleted from in the memory and whether the connected job should be stored in the memory, when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed"* and (2) *"a warning is generated if the user designates to delete the respective one of the plurality of jobs from the memory when the user designates not to store the connected job in the memory"*. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

In both references of Nakagiri and Nishikawa, the systems contain the feature of combining jobs together as a combined job and deleting these jobs as they are generated for a combined job. In the primary reference of Nakagiri, figure 21 displays the process of combining jobs¹. The jobs are combined and displayed, as illustrated in figures 16-18. In the Nakagiri reference, the system is able to delete jobs as they are combined, or generated, to form a combined job. Although the Applicant asserts that the Kato reference does not perform the above feature, the Examiner believes this feature is taught by both the Nakagiri and Nishikawa references. Because jobs in a connected job can be deleted from

¹ See Nakagiri '440 at col. 20, ll. 54-col. 21, ll. 35.

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memory or stored in memory in connection with a combined job, the feature of designating whether to store a job or delete the job in memory by a user during the process of generating a combination job is performed.

In reference to the disclosure of Kato regarding the first feature, it is clear that the Kato system utilizes a user's input in order for the system to determine what job to delete in terms of a combined job². For example, in paragraph [0078], the job common header is used to create the job control block. As mentioned in the cited in paragraph [0047] of Kato, the user can set printing conditions that makeup the job common header such as the number of copies as well as other information such as job number and storage limit information. When the user combines or connects jobs, the user can then rewrite the header information that pertains to the combined jobs, which includes information on the storage limit information that deals with the deletion of the job³. Here, in the system of Kato, the system allows a user to rewrite the header during the job combination process. With the above information of Kato being combined with the Nakagiri reference of deleting image data during the combination of image data, the Examiner believes the claim limitation above (1) is performed.

Regarding the second (2) asserted claim limitation, the references of Nakagiri and Nishikawa involve the features of a user designating to delete a job from memory that is apart of a combination, or connection, job⁴. Even the

² See Kato '865 at ¶¶ [0058]-[0073] and [0087].

³ Id. at ¶¶ [0058]-[0060].

⁴ See Office Action at pages 5 and 6.

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reference of Kato involves deleting a job connected to other jobs⁵. However, the generation of a warning during the deletion of a job is not clearly presented in the references, but this deficiency is cured by the reference of Abe⁶. Therefore, with the combination of the above references with the warning generation feature of Abe, the Examiner still believes the claim limitation regarding the second assertion (2) is performed and the rejection of the claims is maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

⁵ See Kato at ¶ [0066]-[0068].

⁶ See Office Action at pages 8 and 9.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CHAD DICKERSON
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625